

lican Congress, having split definitely with the  
 Insurgents,  
 on this point; for though I am bitterly  
 disappointed with  
 Taft, and consider much of his course  
 absolutely inexplica-  
 ble, I have felt that, as in so many other cases, I  
 had to make  
 the best of conditions as they actually were  
 and do the best  
 I possibly could to carry Congress and to  
 carry the State  
 of New York, with the entire understanding on  
 my part that  
 victory in either means the immense  
 strengthening of Taft.  
 In New York State I deliberately went in to put  
 the close  
 supporters of Taft in control of the Eepublican  
 machinery,  
 and have done and am now doing my best to  
 elect a man  
 whom, I assume, is a Taft man; because I felt  
 that the one  
 clear duty of a decent citizen was to try to  
 put the Ee-  
 publican Party on a straight basis, and now to  
 try to put  
 that party in power in the State instead of  
 turning the  
 State over to Murphy of Tammany Hall,  
 acting as the  
 agent, ally and master of crooked finance.

"I have never had a more unpleasant  
 summer. The sor-  
 did baseness of much or most of the so-called  
 Eegulars,  
 who now regard themselves as especially the  
 Taft men, and  
 the wild irresponsible folly of the ultra-  
 Insurgents, make  
 a situation which is very unpleasant. From a  
 variety of  
 causes, the men who are both sane and  
 progressive, the  
 men who make up the strength of the party,  
 have been left  
 so at sea during these months that they have  
 themselves  
 tended to become either sordid on the one  
 hand, or wild  
 on the other. I do not see how I could as a  
 decent citizen

have avoided taking the stand I have taken  
this year, and  
striving to re-unite the party and to help the  
Eepublicans  
retain control of Congress and of the State of  
New York,  
while at the same time endeavoring to see that  
this control  
within the party was in the hands of sensible  
and honor-  
able men who were progressives and not of a  
bourbon reac-  
tionary type. But as far as my personal  
inclinations were  
concerned, my personal pleasure and comfort,  
I should  
infinitely have preferred to keep wholly out  
of politics.  
I need hardly say that I never made a speech  
or took an  
action save in response to the earnest and  
repeated requests